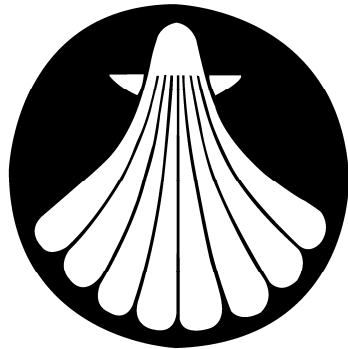


THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL



THE AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

Introduced September 1991
Minor revisions annually
Major Revisions Spring 1995/Autumn 2000
Minor revisions June 2005

MISSION STATEMENT

**The Boswells School
aims to provide an education
for the twenty-first century,
to ensure that every child has access to
a range of opportunities,
which meets their learning needs.
We aim to equip our students to
realise their potential by becoming
creative thinkers and independent learners
able to express themselves with confidence
and embrace lifelong learning.
We aim for every student to leave school
having identified a talent,
a skill or an intelligence
through which they can become
whatever they choose to be**

WHAT THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL AIMS TO DO FOR ITS STUDENTS

We aim to:

- offer the same opportunities for all students;
- provide a broad and balanced curriculum;
- encourage students to have high expectations;
- maximise the opportunities for all students to achieve their potential;
- provide a happy, caring and secure environment which positively promotes the self esteem and motivation of students;
- challenge students and to celebrate, praise and reward the achievements of all students either as individuals or when working together with others;
- help students to develop into useful members of society, able to think for themselves and to show courtesy and consideration for others;
- encourage students to be adaptable and flexible in their outlook in order to help them take their place in a rapidly changing world;
- enhancing the learning environment of students through the use of Information Communication Technology;
- encourage and foster worthwhile interests and experiences beyond the classroom;
- encourage the maximum number of students to continue their education and training beyond 16.

FOR ITS STAFF

We aim to:

- identify the needs and strengths of staff thereby enabling them to realise their full potential and to make the best use of all their talents to the benefit of students, colleagues and the wider community;
- enable all staff to become ICT proficient and to continually update their skills;

FOR PARENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

We aim to:

- foster a sense of partnership in the education process by parents, students, teachers, governors, employers and other members of the local community;
- encourage the use of the school as a centre of learning and leisure for students and members of the local community;
- be a positive influence in the community, establishing a good reputation, being a responsible neighbour and keeping our buildings and site in good order;

FOR GOVERNORS

We aim to:

- provide the Governing Body and its associated committees with the relevant information and advice at the appropriate times in order that they may make informed decisions and meet their statutory responsibilities;
- demonstrate that we are using available resources in an effective and efficient manner in pursuit of the above aims and the School Development Plan.

AIMS INTO PRACTICE

1. We aim to offer the same opportunities for all students by:

- giving all students entitlement to all areas of the curriculum;
- ensuring that all students have access to the entitlement outlined in the school's Equal Opportunities and Multicultural Policies, regardless of race, religion, gender, special educational needs or social background;
- providing support and assistance for those students who require it.

2. We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum by:

- providing every student with the entitlement to the following areas of experience:

Aesthetic, Creative and Cultural
Linguistic
Mathematical
Physical
Scientific and Technological
Social, Spiritual and Moral

- building into each student's programme of study, the essential cross-curricular skill and themes which make the curriculum coherent.

These are:

Communication (oracy, literacy, numeracy, graphicacy)
Problem solving
Study Skills

and,

Health Education
Careers Education and Guidance
Economic and Industrial Understanding
Information Technology
Environmental Education
Citizenship
Work Experience

3. We aim to encourage students to have high expectations by:

- creating a learning environment which is purposefully disciplined and instructive where students and staff gain satisfaction and success from their work;
- providing a curriculum which offers challenge, learning experiences and support matched to individual needs, including support and extension work as required;
- providing access to information regarding future opportunities which reflect, without bias, the complete range of possibilities;
- ensuring that records of progress inform future planning and provide accurate feedback for students and teachers.

4. We aim to maximise the opportunities for all students to achieve their full potential by:

- providing a structure which enables each individual student's capability to be recognised and developed;
- establishing a planned system of regular assessment, recording and reporting which provides a clear picture of the potential and progress of every student;

- helping all students to achieve the levels of attainment and public examination results of which they are capable;
- carrying out a regular review of teaching and learning process in order to monitor effectiveness;
- establishing systems of working that allow students to play a part in monitoring and recording their own progress.

5. We aim to provide a happy, caring and secure environment which positively promotes the self esteem and motivation of students by:

- recognising that every student who joins The Boswells is a valued member of the school community and ensuring their individual well-being is given the fullest possible attention;
- maintaining a strong pastoral care system involving the entire staff of the school;
- fostering an atmosphere of mutual tolerance and understanding;
- creating opportunities for students to take responsibility for their own welfare and the welfare of others;
- developing the skills whereby students learn to recognise and record their personal achievements;
- creating opportunities for the development of leadership qualities;
- developing a commitment to group, year, house, school and community by sharing in positive tasks and recognising the needs of individuals within the group.

6. We aim to challenge students and to celebrate, praise and reward the achievements of all students either as individuals or when working together with others by:

- developing a curriculum and range of teaching and learning skills which extend students of all abilities;
- providing students with opportunities to succeed over a wide range of activities; recognising that effective teaching and learning contributes to students' success;

- maintaining a system which rewards and praises achievement and progress in all areas of school life.

7. We aim to help students develop into useful members of society, able to think for themselves and to show courtesy and consideration for others by:

- welcoming each student as a valued member of his community and, as such, recognising the wide and varied contributions students can make to the life of the school and the increasingly multicultural community;
- establishing a secure and happy learning environment which stresses the importance of self discipline and respect for others;
- setting clear whole school expectations for students with regard to attendance, punctuality, appearance, attitude to work and relationships with others;
- fostering the recognition of the equality, worth and dignity of people from all cultures and creating a caring atmosphere in which diversity can flourish;
- regularly monitoring the delivery of those expectations and taking appropriate action when required.

8. We aim to encourage students to be adaptable and flexible in their outlook in order to help them take their place in a rapidly changing world by:

- providing a curriculum which recognises we are part of a growing European Community and an interdependent global community;
- recognising the importance of new technology by stimulating the interest of students, developing expertise and encouraging creativity in the applications of Information Communication Technology, etc;
- stressing the cross-curricular nature of ICT and its relevance as a significant educational 'tool' which enhances both the learning and teaching of all students;
- encouraging students to view education and training as a life-long process enabling learners to develop, up-date and enhance their skills, knowledge and understanding;
- ensuring that the curriculum and educational experience offered to students is subject to regular review and development.

9. We aim to enhance the learning environment of students through the use of ICT by:

- making ICT facilities available to students before, during and after school;
- developing the confidence of all students to use ICT both in and out of school;
- encouraging and enabling students to progressively develop their individual ICT skills;
- giving students an understanding of when it is appropriate to use ICT;
- integrating the use of ICT into schemes of work across the curriculum;
- encouraging the positive benefits to be gained from accessing the Internet;
- monitoring and assessing the ICT capabilities of students.

10. We aim to encourage and foster interests and experiences beyond the classroom by:

- offering a variety of extra-curricular activities and experiences which enhance and enrich the curriculum;
- recognising the value of learning through the first hand experience that is provided through educational visits and journeys;
- ensuring all students have the opportunity to take part in a work experience programme;
- providing opportunities for appropriate students to experience a more work based curriculum;
- offering opportunities for Community Service and for recognising the needs of others through charity work, etc;
- developing links with commerce, industry and the caring services.

11. We aim to encourage the maximum number of students to continue their education and training beyond 16 by:

- ensuring that students are aware of the changing needs of commerce and industry;
- ensuring that students are aware of the full range of educational and training opportunities available to them;
- reinforcing the belief that it is now the norm rather than the exception to continue with education and training post 16;
- providing a wide and varied curriculum in order to best equip students for their future;
- reviewing the curricular provision as and when appropriate.

12. We aim to identify the needs and strengths of all staff and enable them to realise their full potential and to make the best use of all their talents to the benefit of students and the community by:

- recognising the most important resource in a school is its staff;
- providing staff with every opportunity to utilise their individual skills and interests through their daily commitment, extra-curricular opportunities and additional responsibilities;
- giving all staff access to professional development that matches their job description and enhances their career development particularly in the area of ICT;
- implementing a Performance Management policy which helps individual teachers with their professional development and career planning whilst also helping ensure that in-service training and the deployment of teachers matches the complementary needs of individual, teachers and the school.

13. We aim to recognise the important contributions made to the education process by parents, students, teachers, governors, employers and other members of the local community by:

- continuing to encourage the collaborative process of learning involving parents, students, teachers and governors, as exemplified by the student handbook, parental involvement in school activities, etc;

- consulting parents, whenever appropriate, and keeping them fully informed of developments affecting the education of their children through 'user friendly' newsletters, special meetings, etc;
- making freely available policy documents which are brief and written in simple, easy to understand English;
- positively welcoming into the school parents and other members of the community;
- encouraging the work of The Friends of Boswells School;
- actively encouraging students' contributions through, for example, the House System, the Crime Prevention Panel, etc.

14. We aim to encourage the use of the school as a centre of learning and leisure for students and members of the local community by:

- encouraging the community use of our buildings and facilities;
- working closely with outside bodies such as Adult Education, The Youth Service, Springfield Parish Council and Springfield Community Centre;
- encouraging the development of such activities as the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme which involves students from Years 9 to 13.

15. We aim to be a positive influence in the community, establishing a good reputation, being a responsible neighbour and keeping our buildings and site in good order by:

- encouraging students to feel that they have shared ownership of the school and, therefore, they have a responsibility for looking after it;
- encouraging students to recognise that The Boswells is part of the local community and that standards expected of them within school apply equally in the surrounding neighbourhood and beyond;
- liaising regularly with local residents, shopkeepers, Councillors, neighbourhood police officer, etc;
- keeping the general public informed through the press and local TV of the many positive activities taking place within the school;

- working to a Premises Development Plan which aims at maintaining the buildings and grounds to the highest possible standard within available resources.

16. We aim to provide the governing body and its associated committees with the relevant information and advice at the appropriate times in order that they meet their statutory requirements by:

- building up a close working relationship with the Governing Body;
- developing systems and procedures which ensure Governors receive the appropriate information at the required times;
- involving Governors in the monitoring and review process and in the formulation of areas identified for priority development in the Annual School Plan.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Performance Management Policy.

17. We aim to demonstrate that we are using available resources in an effective and efficient manner in pursuit of the above aims and the school development plan by:

- ensuring strong correlation between the budget and the development plan;
- striving to obtain good value for money at all times;
- following closely our agreed Financial Authority and Business Procedures Document;
- making prompt and accurate financial and other returns, as required by Essex County Council and the Department for Education.
- using the Responsible Officer to keep governors regularly apprised of all financial matters.